

[Martin's Ranch and Indian Attack]

[Duplicate]

Mrs. Jennie Everhart

Wordage

District #4

MARTIN's RANCH AND INDIAN ATTACK

The George Martin family was the first family to settle in Hall County on the south side of the Platte River. Mr. Martin came from England in 1850, lived for a short time near Elgin, Illinois, from there he moved to Fremont County, Iowa and engaged for several years freighting to Denver from Nebraska City. It was on these trips that he became impressed with the location as a desirable place for settlement, locating near Doniphan in 1862.

Previous to his settlement, he, accompanied by two of his sons Nathaniel and Robert made a well along the side of the road at the place where he afterwards located. With a short handled spade he dug to the depth of 15 feet, then, sank into the sand at the [bootm?] [?] thereof a barrel having both of the heads removed. The seeping water soon filled the barrel. After removing the sand it was allowed to again fill, this time the water was clear and sparkling. Nathaniel, one of the sons, who later figured so notably in an Indian attack, cut wood from the nearby [?] trees and [watching] they curbed the walls to prevent any cave-in. The well, walled to a depth of 15 ft., with two buckets attached by a rope for drawing the water from the it, thus became, due to its location on the main traveled road from Nebraska City to the western parts "an oasis in the desert." It was extensively used in the 60's and 70's by emigrants, stage passengers, hunters and trappers. The well was not

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abandoned until some 20 years later when a patent pump was installed and located nearer the house site. C15 [?]

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Mr. Martin first built a sod house for his family close to the road being frequented as a stopping place by emigrants and travelers on the journey over this road. After three years he built a much better house from logs cut from the island above. Later the sons aided the father in planting a grove of cotton [?], one of the young trees planted singly, by the youngest son William, was only 7 or 8 inches in height when planted, but after a growth of 30 years had has grown into a [significant?] spreading tree with a diameter of 6 feet and was is much alive. It was during the year [1864?] that the attack by Indians referred to previously took place.

Mr. Geo. Martin and sons Nathaniel and Hebert were hauling hay with two wagons. The father on one load, the two boys following on the second load, being drawn by oxen, but, having their pony tied behind the load. When about three miles from home they were attacked by the Indians who after wounding Mr. Martin, noticed the boys with their load and the pony. They The boys upon seeing the Indians immediately unyoked their oxen turning them free. As quickly as possible they got upon the pony. Hebert in the front with Nathaniel behind him and started for home. The Indians gained upon them in the chase, and when within a quarter of a mile from the house one of the Indians arrows pierced Nathaniel [?] the shoulder blade and the back bone, came out at the right side of the breast and penetrated his brother riding in front of him. [Thus?], pinning them together, while other arrows shot at them lodged in various parts of their bodies, one in the arm of Nathaniel and others in the hip and the thigh of Robert. Riding thus until Nathaniel became dizzy and fainted , whereupon both boys fell from the 3 horse, which also became entangled in the loosened rein and fell to the ground. The Indians after viewing them, thought their arrows had killed them, drove away leaving the boys where they had fallen. The parents removed the arrows, which they have been carefully preserved, and immediately started for Nebraska City with the boys for surgical treatment, but they being

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weakened from the lose of blood and the shock, were unable to make the entire trip and were forced to stop at an abandoned house by the wayside, where after several weeks of careful nursing by their mother they returned home. # Nathaniel was not as severely injured as Rovert, for he lived to the ripe age of 79 years, but Robert never overcame his injuries dying in a hospital at Kansas City some years later, from spinal meningitis which was believed to have been brought on as a result of his wounds. (1) Nathaniel before his death acquired many acres of good farming land in South Platte Township, Doniphan vicinity, Hall County about 1028 acres. Here he raised horses, mules and cattle beside the regular farm corps.

He lived an operated the same until 1911 when he retired from active duties. It is now occupied and managed by his son-in-law, Mr. A. M.

Johnson, with whom Mr. Martin made his home, after his wife's death a year and a half previous / to his own death which occurred May 23, 1928. (2)

William E. Martin the youngest of the three boys has been a leading fruit grower, stock raiser and gardener on his farm in Martin township near the village of Doniphan, Nebr. As a horticulturist, he raises peaches, apples, and other fruit. From an orchard of 500 apple trees, 5 years old the marketing product was 1000 bushels of many varieties as 4 [Canoe?], Ben Davis, Winecap, Wealthy, Missouri Pippin, and others. In his garden crop [?????] production of Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and melons he has also been successful carrying off the greater number of awards where his exhibits have been displayed at the county fairs throughout Central Nebr. One 50 acre field of Irish potatoes brought 4100 bushels, [20?] acres of sweet potatoes and water melons netted \$100 per acre. He found the latter crop more profitable as the cost of production required less expenditure.

Mr. Martin is only one of the many early settlers who has passed through the various stages of pioneer boy; school or college student, being a graduate of Grand Island

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Business College: enterprising citizens citizen of Hall County: promoter of many civic organizations with his leadership and financial support, and last but not least that of the successful farmer and [horitucturist.?] horticulturist.

(1) Hall Co. History: pages 88, 870, 878; [Bucehler?] and Barr; 1930; Western Pub. Col. Lincoln, Nebr.

(2) Grand Island Daily Independent, [?] May 24, 1928.

(3) Grand Island Daily Independent, Oct. 4, 1913.